



VA/DOD PROGRAM OFFICE

PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD

VA BENEFITS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS WHO ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR MEDICAL DISCHARGE

This fact sheet provides important VA benefits information for Servicemembers who may be medically discharged. To learn more about applying for VA benefits, or to [locate the nearest VA office](#) where you can receive personal assistance, please call us at 1-800-827-1000.

WHAT IS VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION?

Disability compensation is a monthly benefit paid to Veterans for disabilities resulting from injuries or diseases incurred or aggravated during military service. The amount of benefit varies based on the degree of your disabilities and the number of your dependents. Receipt of military longevity or disability retirement, disability severance pay, or separation incentives can affect the amount of VA compensation paid. Generally, Servicemembers who are medically discharged are automatically considered for VA disability compensation as a standard part of their participation in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

WHAT IS THE INTEGRATED DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM (IDES)?

VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) developed IDES to improve the quality of service provided to Servicemembers who face potential medical discharges. By aligning VA and DoD resources, IDES has streamlined the disability evaluation process. IDES participants undergo a single set of medical examinations and receive a single-source disability rating, which serve as the basis for both VA's and DoD's disability benefit determinations.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department
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HOW CAN I ENROLL IN IDES?

To participate in IDES, Servicemembers must be referred into the program by their respective Military Service Department. Servicemembers do not submit applications, and cannot elect to participate in IDES. If you are referred into IDES, you will be assigned a Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO) and a VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC). Your PEBLO and MSC will provide you with further information about the IDES program.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR COMPENSATION IF I AM NOT REFERRED TO IDES?

Servicemembers who are not referred to IDES, can submit applications for VA Compensation once they are within 180 days of their separation or retirement date, or at any time after discharge. For additional information and [learn how to apply](#).

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E) SERVICES?

Servicemembers awaiting discharge because of a disability may be eligible for VR&E services. By developing an individualized rehabilitation program based on each participant's specific needs and abilities, VR&E helps disabled Veterans attain suitable employment or achieve independence in daily living. See additional information about [VR&E services](#).

WHAT VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE?

VA provides free health care to veterans with combat service for conditions possibly related to military service for a period of five years, beginning on the date of their separation from active military service. Additionally, one-time dental treatment is available up to 180 days following separation if you were not provided treatment within the 90-day period preceding your separation. VA health care is also available while on active duty in emergency situations and upon referral by military treatment facilities or TRICARE. Veterans with disabilities that VA determines are related to their military service are entitled to free lifetime health care for those disabilities and are assigned to priority groupings in the VA health care system.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT VA INSURANCE BENEFITS?

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is low-cost life insurance for Servicemembers and reservists. Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program of post-separation insurance and allows Servicemembers to convert their SGLI coverage to renewable term insurance. If you have an SGLI policy and are totally disabled when you separate from service, you may be able to keep your SGLI coverage for up to 2 years at no cost. Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) is a disability rider to the SGLI program that provides automatic traumatic injury coverage to all Servicemembers covered under the SGLI program who experience certain severe losses due to traumatic injuries. If you have suffered such a loss, call 1-800-419-1473 to learn how to make a claim for the TSGLI benefit.

